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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/717,906	11/21/2003	Hye Yong Park	9988.082.00-US	7371
30827	7590	05/11/2006	EXAMINER	
MCKENNA LONG & ALDRIDGE LLP 1900 K STREET, NW WASHINGTON, DC 20006				HAWK, NOAH CHANDLER
		ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER
		3636		

DATE MAILED: 05/11/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/717,906	PARK ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Noah C. Hawk	3636	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 3/2/06 *R* 5/10/06.
 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-19 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) 14-19 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1-13 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Newly submitted claims 14-19 are directed to an invention that is independent or distinct from the invention originally claimed for the following reasons: Claims 14-19 present a method for forming a control panel, while the original claims presented a control panel apparatus.
2. Since applicant has received an action on the merits for the originally presented invention, this invention has been constructively elected by original presentation for prosecution on the merits. Accordingly, claims 14-19 are withdrawn from consideration as being directed to a non-elected invention. See 37 CFR 1.142(b) and MPEP § 821.03.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

3. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.
4. Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The phrase "a fused planar contact" renders the claim indefinite. The applicant recites that the display panel is curved and follows the contour of the control panel, but then goes on to call the contact area between the display and

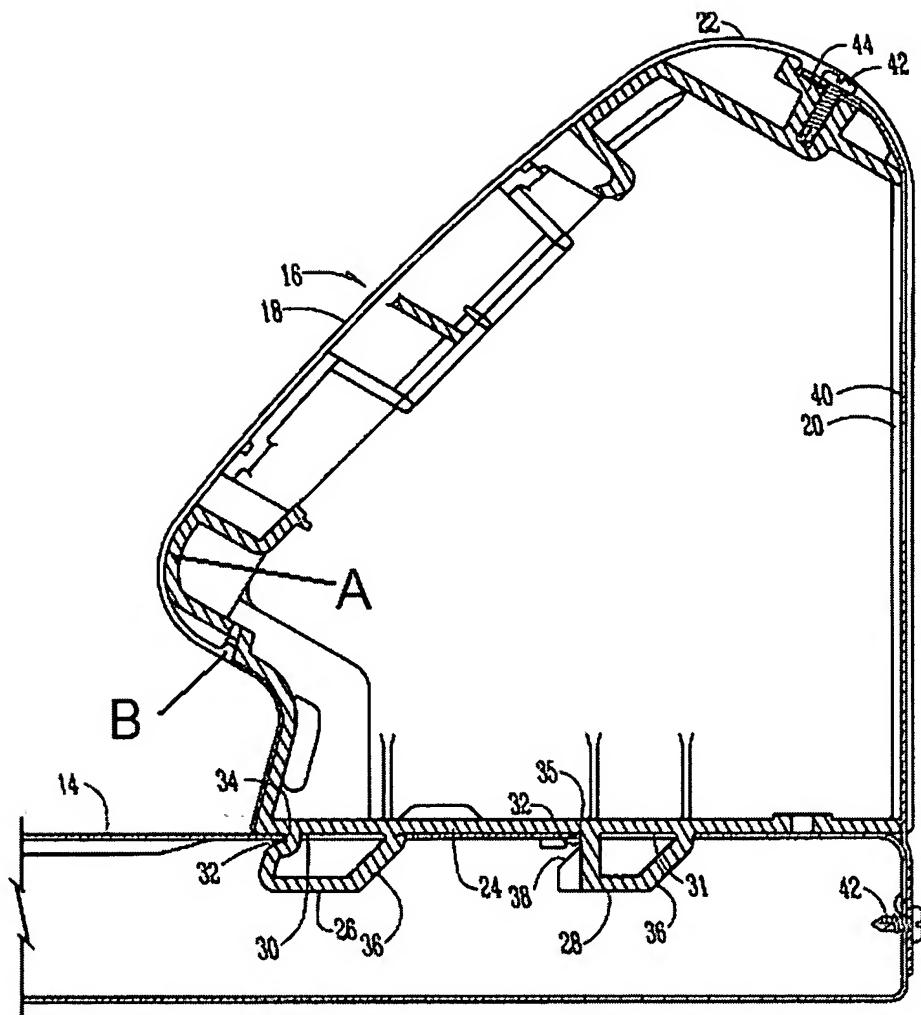
the control panels planar. If the contact area is curved, it is, by definition, not planar.

The applicant must clarify whether the contact area is curved or planar.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

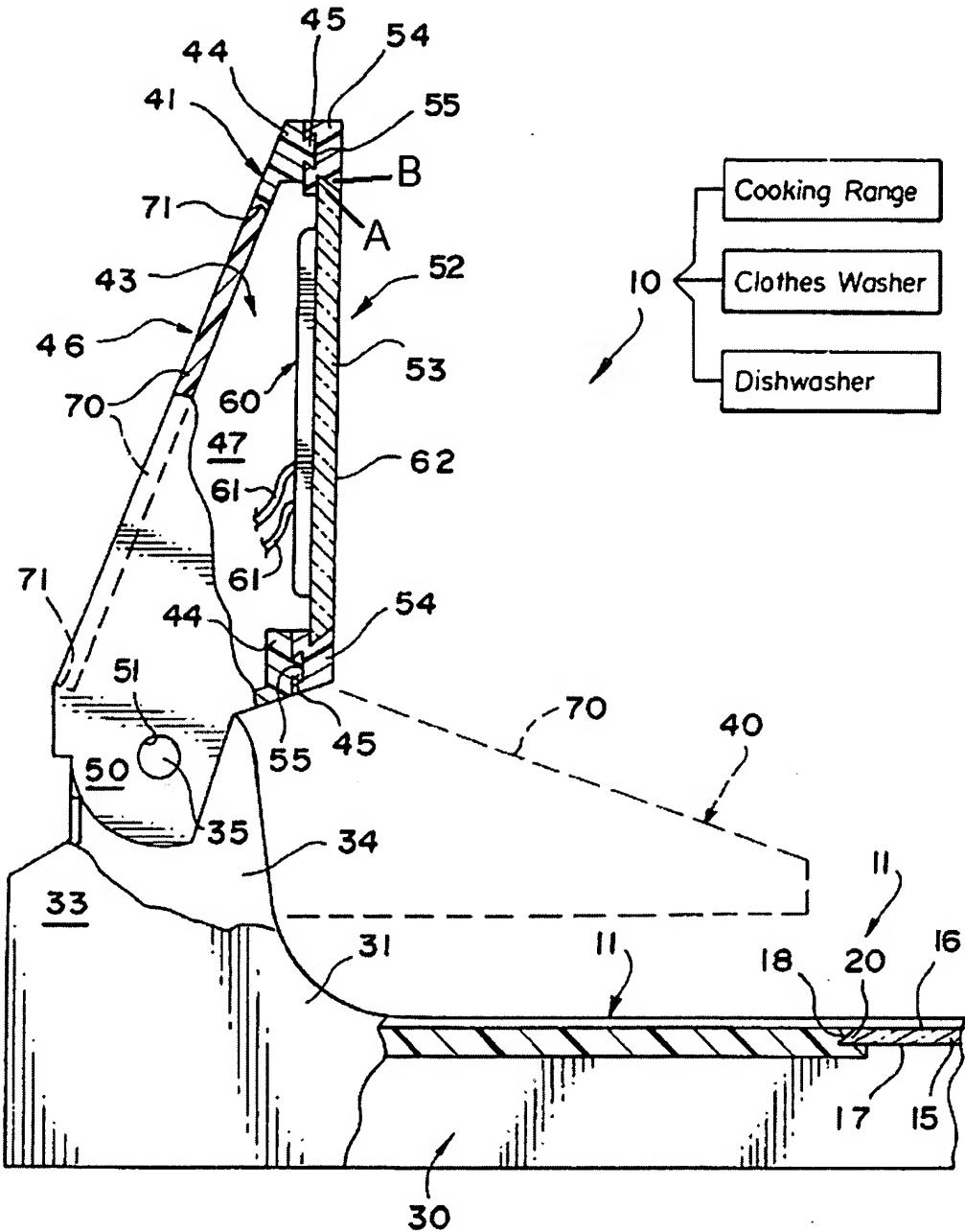
5. Claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Marchand in US Patent 6119678 in view of Lickiss et al. in US Patent 5971510.

a. Regarding Claim 1; Marchand teaches a control panel assembly comprising a control panel (comprising parts 41, 54, and 60) and a display panel (53) with a fused planar contact between the display and control panels (See Marchand, Column 3, lines 65-68: "secured to a rear surface" is considered a fused connection between the display and the control panels.) Marchand fails to teach a curved contour to the panels. Lickiss teaches a control panel assembly having a curved control panel (A) and a display panel (18) that has a portion that follows the control panel. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to modify the device of Marchand by using control and display panels having curved contours as taught by Lickiss et al. in order to satisfy the design requirements of the specific artisan.



Lickiss et al., Figure 4

b. Regarding Claims 2 and 3, Marchand, as modified, further teaches that the display panel is provided with a first interlocking part (A) including a protrusion, and that the control panel has a second interlocking part (B) that receives the first part and includes a recess.



Marchand, Figure 3

c. Regarding Claim 4, Marchand, as modified fails to teach a triangular cross section for the interlocking elements. It would be an obvious design choice to one

of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to use a triangular cross section for the protrusion (A) of the display panel and the recess (B) of the control panel in order to provide an angled rear surface on the display panel, allowing the display panel to be pressed into place from the front of the control panel.

d. Regarding Claims 5 and 6, Marchand, as modified, fails to teach that the second interlocking part is adjacent to the curved contour of the control panel or that the contour of the control panel has an inclined portion. Lickiss et al. teaches that the display panel has an interlocking part (B) adjacent to the contour of the control panel and that the contour of the control panel has an inclined portion which is followed by the display panel. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to modify the device of Marchand, as modified, by arranging the second interlocking part adjacent to the curve of the control panel as taught by Lickiss et al. in order to provide a secure interlock between the display and the control panels over the contour and to provide the control panel with an inclined portion as taught by Lickiss, et al. in order to provide a panel that is more easily viewable by the user.

6. Claims 7-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lickiss et al. in view of Marchand.

e. Regarding Claim 7, Lickiss teaches a control panel assembly having a control panel (A) with a nonplanar contour and a display panel (18) having a contour that follows the nonplanar contour of the control panel. Lickiss fails to teach that the display panel is secured to the control panel by fused portions.

Marchand teaches a control panel (comprising parts 41, 54, and 60) and a display panel (53) with a fused contact between the display and control panels (See Marchand, Column 3, lines 65-68: "secured to a rear surface is considered a fused connection between the display and the control panels.). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to modify the device of Lickiss by using a fused contact as taught by Marchand in order to further secure the display to the control panel.

f. Regarding Claim 8, Lickiss, as modified further teaches that the nonplanar contour of the control panel includes a curved contour (the curve of element A).

g. Regarding Claims 9 and 10, Lickiss as modified, further teaches an interlocking protrusion on one edge of the display panel (B) secured in an interlocking recess on the control panel.

h. Regarding Claim 11, Lickiss, as modified teaches an interlocking protrusion on an edge of the display panel (B) secured in an interlocking recess on the control panel but fails to teach that the two interlocking portions are fused.

Marchand teaches a control panel (comprising parts 41, 54, and 60) and a display panel (53) with a fused contact between the display and control panels (See Marchand, Column 3, lines 65-68: "secured to a rear surface is considered a fused connection between the display and the control panels.). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to extend the fused connection to the protrusion and recess as well as the contact area in order to provide a more secure connection between the two elements.

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- i. Regarding Claim 12, Lickiss, as modified, further teaches that the control panel includes an inclined portion (portion A is inclined) and that the display panel contours the inclined portion.
- j. Regarding Claim 13, Lickiss, as modified, fails to teach that the protrusion and recess have triangular cross sections. It would be an obvious design choice to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to use a triangular cross section for the protrusion of the display panel and the recess of the control panel in order to provide an angled rear surface on the display panel, allowing the display panel to be pressed into place from the front of the control panel.

Response to Arguments

- 7. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-4 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

- 8. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not

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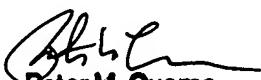
mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Noah C. Hawk whose telephone number is 571-272-1480. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9am to 5:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Peter Cuomo can be reached on 571-272-6856. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

NCH
NCH


Peter M. Cuomo
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5/1/06